

SATURDAY, JULY 5, 1902.



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Wingless Birds.

The kiwi is the sole remnant of the wonderful race of wingless birds that once roamed all over New Zealand, the gigantic skeletons of some of which have been found in such numbers that almost every museum in the world possesses one or more of them.

The kiwi is about the size of a partridge, has a rather long neck and a curious bill about four inches in length. Its wings are quite undeveloped, and its feathers have a sort of unfinished character, which may be supposed to represent Nature's early efforts in that direction, before the close, rich plumage of the modern bird was "evolved."

Wanting the means of flight, the kiwi has almost been exterminated, and with it also have gone, or nearly gone, all the other feathered denizens of the woods. The invasion of their haunts by the white man has been their destruction.

Was Not Spoken in Forty Years.

At the home of Mrs. Lu and Gore Bonta, on the Lexington pike, is an old colored woman who has never spoken since her husband was put upon the block and auctioned off to southern slave dealers over 40 years ago. When he was torn from her side she vowed never to speak until he was restored to her and though many years have passed and the custom of selling human beings has been abolished, she still keeps her vow. "Aunt Susan," as she is called, is now between 60 and 70 years of age.—Harrodsburg (Ky.) Herald.

MALARIA.

Malaria can be cured by "Wyckoff's Malaria." This remedy is almost instantaneous in its effect, and rarely fails to make a complete cure of the most stubborn case of chills and fever, and malaria in all its forms. If not found at your druggist, can be obtained from the Wyckoff Malaria Co., 1422 New York Ave.

Watch for a town, Congress Heights, D. C.

Ping-Pong in Washington.

Mark Hanna has taken to ping-pong. That is, he has installed a ping-pong set in his Washington home and the game is open to all comers as a means of amusement while waiting their turns to see the senator. Jerry Simpson, the erstwhile sockless one from Kansas, has taken to ping-pong and is actually said to be the champion of Montana. Jerry played with three millionaires and is quoted as saying that this was the first time he ever beat the rich at their own game.

Russian Kettle Bridges.

Perhaps the most remarkable bridges in the world are the kettle-bridges, of which the Cossack soldiers are expert builders. The materials of which they are constructed are the soldiers' lances and cooking kettles. Seven or eight lances are passed under the handles of a number of kettles and fastened by means of ropes to form a raft. A sufficient number of these rafts, each of which will bear a weight of half a ton, are fastened together, and in the space of an hour a bridge is formed on which an army may cross with confidence and safety.

Bridge Whist in Washington.

What is known as the "congressional bridge whist ban" consists of Speaker Henderson, Representative Sherman of New York, Representative Metcalf of California and Representative Powers of Maine. The members of the quartette are carefully looking over the southern delegation for a member with wealth and lack of skill. "How does the record stand geographically?" Mr. Powers was asked the other day. "Well, the speaker is the greatest holder I ever saw," he replied, "but the far east is not behind the game."

When a man orders spring lamb in a cheap restaurant he begins to realize how tough it is to die young.

Dyspepsia is the parent of many disagreeable qualities.

LOVE AMONG THE FISHES.

Proof That if Cold Blooded They are Not Without Affection.

From Shakespeare down literature has made use of the term cold-blooded to describe lack of emotion, and especially of the grand passion, love. And yet among the members of the fish family, certainly reckoned with scientific accuracy as of cold blood, striking instances of conjugal and of paternal love might easily be furnished by observing fishermen.

Many a time at this season has the writer seen the black bass keeping vigilant and tender watch over the gravely nest wherein reposed his young. No mother bird takes more anxious care of her nestlings than does the bass of the wriggling little brood beside the spawning bed.

Once—it was on the Danford Lake—when a fish spear invaded such a home, the sturdy seven-pound sentinel attacked its prongs, and with his powerful jaws made his displeasure plainly felt at the other end of the spear shaft.

Often since that day have bass, watching their nests, been tested and teased with the tip end of a fishing pole, and never have they failed to show passionate, hot-headed resentment at the interference with their families.

The other day a misguided black bass rose at an ancient fly which was being tried on the pickerel. As she was being drawn ashore her mate made a fierce dash to her aid, and threw himself clear of the water in his solicitude on her behalf. It is close season for bass in provincial waters, so both handsome fish were restored to the water.

A Canadian writer on fishing in his book on the omaniche mentions a similar incident which befell him while fishing for large fork-tailed trout. A fond male fish proved the constancy of his love by voluntarily dying with his beautiful speckled consort.

Not long ago a huge muskallonge was being taken from the St. Lawrence on a trolley line when a rapid blow with a boat hook wounded, and a second attempt dragged to the boat-side a sister fish that persisted in keeping close to the side of the exhausted captive all through her struggles. The two fish were within an ounce of the same weight, fifty-eight pounds, and were doubtless members of the same family.

This reminds the writer of an experience at Peak's Island, Portland Harbor. Wishing to inspect a conger eel which had cast its skin, the uncanny creature was being dragged to shore with a walking stick, when like a flash a companion eel with its clothes on darted at the observer in a most venomous and snake-like manner trying to human nerves. There was no doubt about the intention of the second eel to do battle on behalf of its companion.

Cold-blooded the members of the fishy tribe no doubt are, but it does not by any means follow that they are therefore destitute of those attributes of passion, of anger or of love, commonly supposed to be lacking in the individual to whom the term is commonly applied.—New York Times.

The Height of the Tallest Men.

Turner, the naturalist, declared that he once saw, upon the coast of Brazil, a race of gigantic savages, one of whom was twelve feet in height. M. Thevet, of France, in his description of America, published at Paris in 1575, asserted that he saw and measured the skeleton of a South American which was eleven feet two inches in length. The Chinese are said to claim that in the last century there were men in their country who measured fifteen feet in height. Josephus mentioned the case of a Jew who was ten feet two inches in height. Pliny tells of an Arabian giant, Gabara, nine feet nine inches, the tallest man in the days of Claudius. John Middleton, born at Hale, Lancashire, in the time of James I., was nine feet three inches in height, his hand was seventeen inches long and eight and a half inches broad, says Dr. Platt in his "History of Staffordshire." The Irish giant, Murphy, contemporary with O'Brien, was eight feet ten inches. A skeleton in the museum of Trinity College, Dublin, is eight feet six inches in height, and that of Charles Byrne, in the Museum of the College of Surgeons, London, is eight feet four inches. The tallest living man is Chang-tu-Sing, the Chinese giant. His height is seven feet three inches.—Medical Examiner and Practitioner.

Copper Telegraph Wire.

Owing to its superior conductivity, copper wire is replacing iron wire for telegraph lines. What is known as "hard drawn" copper wire, an almost pure article, has a high conducting value, but its strength is not quite so great as an alloy, like phosphor bronze. The latter, though, will not carry the current so well. Compared with that of the "hard drawn" copper, the conductivity of phosphor bronze is as 85 to 98. Besides, it is a trifle more costly. Except where very long spans are needed—as, for instance, over a river—the "hard drawn" copper is strong enough for all practical purposes.

Copper has not displaced iron for telegraph wire so extensively as was once expected. This is undoubtedly due to its high price of late years. Indeed, the cost of aluminum is now so low that it is sometimes substituted for copper as an electrical conductor. The new line which conveys power from Niagara to Buffalo makes use of aluminum cables. But iron still retains its old popularity. A big factory, which has been running night and day for two years, recently received a fresh order for 27,000 miles of wire.—New York Tribune.

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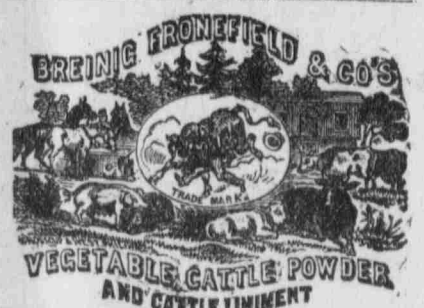
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